

Southend-on-Sea Borough Council

Report of
Executive Director (Adults and Communities)
and
Executive Director (Children and Public Health)
to
Cabinet Meeting
on
8th November 2022

Report prepared by: Paul Hill (Southend Safeguarding Partnership (Adults) Business Manager)

Southend Safeguarding Partnership Annual Report 2021/2022

1. Purpose of Report

To present to Cabinet the Southend Strategic Safeguarding Partnership Annual report 2021/2022. The annual report provides an annual assurance assessment to the Council in respect of its responsibilities for safeguarding children and adults in Southend. This annual report contributes to the requirements of statutory guidance in Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 and the Care Act 2014.

2. Recommendations

- **That Cabinet note the Southend Strategic Safeguarding Partnership Annual report 2021 – 2022.**

3. Background

- 3.1 When Southend reviewed and updated its arrangements following the DfE's issue of the updated Working Together document in 2018, the Borough (now City) decided to combine many of the functions of the old Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB) and Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB): Creating the new Southend Safeguarding Partnership. This is the second annual report published by the Southend Safeguarding Partnership.
- 3.2 This report introduces the Annual Report of the Southend Safeguarding Partnership for the Financial Year 2021 to 2022. The annual report has been jointly authored and constructed by all 3 statutory partners (Southend-on-sea City Council, Essex Police, and the Mid and South Essex Integrated Care Board (previously the Clinical Commissioning Group, until 1st July 2022)). and provides an account of the safeguarding activity and ambitions, for both children and adults in Southend for 2021 - 2022. The annual report will be considered by Essex police and the Integrated Commissioning Board through their respective governance frameworks.

3.3 Section 43 of the Care Act 2014 and section 41 of the statutory guidance in Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 (WT 2018) document, together require the Southend Safeguarding Partnership to produce and to publish an annual report.

4. The Report (Partnership Safeguarding Activity)
Only a few highlights are included in this cover report.

4.1 The Annual Report notes that the Partnership Business Unit is under resourced¹, and the pandemic has had significant effects on service delivery of all Partners. The report includes a RAG assessment of the delivery of the Partnerships strategy under every delivery mechanism (Partnership Subgroup). There is more to do in the provision of training, management of communication forums and the analysis of data and information². It further notes that the recommendations of an Independent Review of the Partnerships work are not yet delivered³. A great deal has, however been achieved over this year, including:

4.2 The Partnership works in close collaboration with its neighbours (Essex and Thurrock, known as the SET Group)⁴. SET (both Adults and Childrens) maintain a number of policies, procedures and practice guidance. There is a rolling plan of review that has been maintained over the year. Other SET wide groups cover domestic violence, domestic homicide, child deaths, information sharing, Learning Disability mortality reviews and suicide steering group.

4.4 The 'excellent' dashboards⁵ (*reviewed after '1 year in use' this year*) have been used by the (adults and childrens) performance subgroups to review the performance of the Partnership. This exploration of the data by Partners has encouraged partners to explore areas where the data is identifying significant change and where Southend is performing differently to its SET neighbours or national peers.

4.6 As a result of the learning of case reviews and the performance, audit, quality and assurance groups:

- two 'Structured Updates' were held during the year (Communications / Transition). Partners came together alongside people with lived experience and explored the issue in detail, shared best practice and clarified policy and procedure.
- The Partnership also hosted a day of action in the High Street where the issues surrounding labour Exploitation and Modern-Day-Slavery were shared with the public.
- An animated video to assist vulnerable people recognise the dangers when making friends was produced – [Tricky Friends](#)
- Partners engaged with the National Safeguarding Awareness Week by promoting the specified topics in their training, communications and through social media.

¹ Partners are currently considering a proposal to add resources to the SSP Business Unit.

² SSP Annual Report 2021-2022, page 9

³ SSP Annual Report 2021-2022, page 31

⁴ SSP Annual Report 2021-2022, page 18

⁵ SSP Annual Report 2021-2022, page 9

- 4.7 Audits of Partners Safeguarding Performance and of Schools safeguarding provision are completed every year⁶. The 'adults' survey was completed across the SET group and included a staff survey.
- 4.8 The Partnership successfully rolled out multi-agency training on the Graded Care Profile (an assessment tool that helps practitioners take a strengths-based approach to measuring the quality of care a child is receiving and supports them to identify neglect.), as part of a joint systems approach to improve outcomes for children and families⁷.
- 4.9 Two 'Child' Rapid Review processes resulting in the escalation for both to commence Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews were delivered and the Partnership also completed a joint review with another Borough, which identified no further action was required. The early learning from the two Rapid Reviews has been disseminated but the final reports and outcomes are yet to be defined as the process is ongoing⁸.
- 4.10 Over the year the multiagency risk assessment team (MARAT) received 424 referrals of domestic abuse where assessments were completed and if appropriate remedial action taken to ensure the safety of the vulnerable adult and children.

5. Other Options (None)

6. Reasons for Recommendations

As one of the three strategic partners of the Southend Strategic Partnership the Council needs to receive and note the Annual report.

7. Corporate Implications

7.1 Contribution to Council's Vision & Corporate Priorities

The work of Partners and the Council in safeguarding children and adults directly contributes to the Council's Safe and Well 2050 outcome and specifically to safeguard children and vulnerable adults in Southend.

7.2 Financial Implications (None)

7.3 Legal Implications

This annual report supports the Council, The Leader, the Chief Executive, Executive Directors and Lead Members to discharge their statutory duties under the Children Act 2004 and Care Act 2014.

7.4 People Implications (None)

7.5 Property Implications (None)

⁶ SSP Annual Report 2021-2022, page 38

⁷ SSP Annual Report 2021-2022, page 42

⁸ SSP Annual Report 2021-2022, page 43

7.6 Consultation

N/A

7.7 Equalities and Diversity Implications (None)

7.8 Risk Assessment

No Risk Assessments are required as a result of the Southend Safeguarding Annual Report 2021/2022

7.9 Value for Money

Fulfilling our responsibility to safeguard children and adults and promote their welfare is a statutory requirement. The Council works in partnership with other organisations and local authorities to ensure we fulfil those responsibilities in the most cost-effective way. Southend Safeguarding Partnership members ensure that all functions are undertaken on value for money principles. Since July 2013 the business management resource of the Childrens and Adults parts of the Southends Safeguarding Partnership (*which was the Local Safeguarding Childrens Safeguarding Board LSCB and Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB)*), have been shared.

(It is noted that for the first time the partnership costs are split evenly between the three strategic partners in 2022/2023.)

7.10 Community Safety Implications

Southend Safeguarding Partnership arrangements support the safety for our most vulnerable members of society across the localities and partnerships. The Southend Safeguarding Partnership oversee work on road safety, e safety, violence against women and girls, modern slavery, sexual exploitation, bullying and hate crime as it relates to children and adults, and monitors the effectiveness of the implementation of the domestic abuse strategy.

8. Background Papers

Many are core documents and are the same as identified in previous annual reports

- [The Children Act 2004 Every Child Matters: Change for Children](#)
- [Children Act 1989](#)
- [Working Together to Safeguard Children \(2018\)](#) (as amended 2022)
- [Special educational needs and disability code of practice \(2015\)](#)
- [Keeping Children Safe in Education \(2016\)](#) (as amended 2022)
- [Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006](#)
- [Mental Capacity Act \(2005\)](#)
- [The Care Act \(2014\)](#)
- [Care and Support Statutory Guidance – Care Act 2014 as amended by the Health and Care Act 2022](#)

- [Making Safeguarding Personal Guide 2014](#)

9. **Appendices**

Appendix 1- Southend Safeguarding Partnership – Annual Report (2021-2022)